

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] Fig. 1 shows a top sectional view of the system according to the invention. On a base 1 a scalding compartment 2 is positioned having in a lower region 3, a water vapor introduction system 4, 4' including two vapor nozzles for introducing water vapor 5. At the lowest position of the scalding compartment 2, a draining tube 6 is provided for the removal of condensation water forming on the walls of the scalding compartment 2. In the upper region 7 of the scalding compartment 2, a transporting line 8 is provided extending through the scalding compartment 2 and formed as a slaughter line in a looped pathway having parallel runs 8', 8", 8"". On the slaughter line, the bodies 9 of the poultry are preferably hung by their feet 10 at fixed positions. A ~~flowing~~flow generating device 11 has two fans 12, 12' located at the exterior of the scalding compartment 2. The fans 12 and 12' respectively have a suction lines 13, 13' which draw off the water vapor-air mixture 5' from the scalding compartment 2. The fans 12 and 12' respectively have pressure lines 14, 14' which introduce a water vapor-air mixture 5' into the scalding compartment 2 in a planned manner.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] The present invention functions as follows:

Water vapor 5 is introduced into the scalding compartment 2 for generating a water vapor-air mixture. For this purpose the scalding compartment 2 is heated to a predetermined temperature. The bodies 9 of the poultry are passed through scalding compartment 2 hanging by their feet 10 with a preset velocity in the direction of the

arrows 31 along the pathway of the transporting line 8. The poultry bodies 9 pass through the inlet area 22 of the lock chamber 23 while being transported substantially parallel to the horizontal tube 17 and the nozzles 18 thereof. At the end of the horizontal tube 17, the poultry bodies 9 are turned around along the loop-like pathway of the transporting device 8 and are transported in the opposite direction between the horizontal tube 17 and along the vertical dead ended tubes 19 arranged in rows and where the nozzles 18 and 20 respectively direct a water vapor air mixture against selected regions of the bodies 9 of the poultry bodies. At the end of this passage, the bodies 9 of the poultry are again turned around by 180° by the transporting line 8 with a looped pathway and are transported back along the other side of the vertical dead end tubes 19 which are arranged in rows and the nozzles 20 thereof by the transporting line 8 having a looped pathway. Eventually the poultry bodies 9 pass through the lock chamber 24 at the outlet area 22 and leave the scalding compartment 2 still hanging at their feet 10 from the transporting line 8 formed as a slaughter line. During the whole passage of the poultry bodies 9 through the scalding compartment 2, the predetermined regions of the bodies 9 of the poultry bodies are subjected to the ~~claimed~~ flow of the water vapor-air mixture 5' from nozzles 18, 20 respectfully of the horizontal tube 17 and the vertical tubes 19.